

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MINUTES

October 15, 2003

Call to Order

Chair Barb Simonsen called the fall meeting of the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:00 am. ACEMS members Debra McCarty, CHP and Ken Brown, MD, were unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions

ACEMS Members in Attendance:

Barb L. Simonsen, RN, Chair
Daniel B. Cox, EMT-III
Donald G. Hudson, DO
David Hull, MICP

Dorothy Jones
Charlie Lean, EMT-I
Steven D. O'Connor, MICP
Karen F. O'Neill, MD, FACEP

State Section of Community Health and EMS Staff in Attendance:

Mark S. Johnson, Chief
Matt Anderson, EMS Unit Manager
Zoann Murphy, Health & Soc. Services Planner

Shelley K. Owens, Health Program Manager
Doreen Risley, Public Health Specialist
Kim Ridle, Administrative Clerk

EMS Regional Staff in Attendance:

Ronni Sullivan, Executive Director, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Sue Hecks, EMS Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Terry Stone, EMS Coordinator, Kodiak Area Native Association
Aggie Lie, EMS Director, Maniilaq Association
Tom Fazzini, Director, Injury Control/EMS Medical Services, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Mike Owens, MICP, EMS Director, Norton Sound Health Corporation
Thor Christianson, Resource Manager, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Teresa Seybert, EMS Sub-Area Coordinator, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
Dan Johnson, Executive Director, Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.
Dave Potashnick, EMS Regional Coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Department
Skip Richards, EMS Coordinator, Chugachmiut

Liaison Representative Members in Attendance:

Ken Zafren, MD, State EMS Medical Director; Frank Sacco, MD, Alaska Native Medical Center and American College of Surgeons; and Terry Smith, Division of Emergency Services. Yuancie Lee, Highway Safety Planning and Lt. Col. Chuck Foster, RCC were unable to be present.

Special Guest:

A quorum of the Council was present. Barb Simonsen, Chair, welcomed everyone and noted that Doug Bruce, Director of the Division of Public Health, plans to visit ACEMS on Friday. The terms of Dave Hull and Deb McCarty expire on November 5, 2003. Deb will not continue, but Dave would like to.

Approval of Changes to Minutes:

The minutes of the spring meeting were reviewed and revised as follows:

Ketchikan and Mt. Edgecumbe Hospitals are not Level III trauma centers. Ketchikan is interested in Level III designation and Dillingham and Mt. Edgecumbe are interested in Level IV designation.

(Steve O'Connor, Don Hudson, Dave Hull)

Delete a statement from the minutes that the Trauma Registry is not exempt from HIPAA.

(Don Hudson, Dorothy Jones)

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To accept the changes to the minutes.

(Steve O'Connor, Dave Hull)

Approval of Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda for October 15th and 16th as presented.

(Steve O'Connor, Dan Cox)

Additional Item added to Agenda

Motion: To add the executive session to the agenda at the end of today.

(Steve O'Connor, Don Hudson)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND WORKING GROUPS

Executive Committee Report (Barb Simonsen)

No Report.

Correspondence (Barb Simonsen)

Barb Simonsen wrote Commissioner Gilbertson thanking him for taking the time to meet with ACEMS and explain the Pro-Share program. She sent four letters to Governor Murkowski: (1) a request that he support the draft incentive bill for Trauma Center designation, in response to which she was invited to meet with staff.

Other letters to the Governor included: (2) thanks for his recognition of the hard work of Regional EMS Councils and state staff on the Code Blue project; (3) ACEMS endorsement of the following bills: SB 160 (Civil Liability For Defibrillator Use), HB 213 (Provisional Drivers' License), HB 25 (Advance Directives), HB 93 (Boating Safety), HB 10/SB 19 (Group Health Insurance); and (4) ACEMS nominations for re-appointment of Dave Hull and appointment of Dr. Coopes as pediatric physician liaison representative.

Invitations were sent to Director Bruce, Commissioner Gilbertson, Lt. Governor Leman and Governor Murkowski to the ACEMS meeting and the EMS Symposium. Barb received a letter from Cheryl Frasca in Governor Murkowski's office dated July 28, 2003 regarding FY 04 Code Blue funding of \$425,000.00.

ACEMS Liaison Member Reports

None were presented

CHEMS Section Report (Mark Johnson)

We won't know the final FY 05 budget outcome until December 15th, which is the deadline for the Governor's budget. The reorganization began in March with the Tobacco & Health Promotion Units being transferred to the Section of Epidemiology. One eliminated grant program in our section was Assistance to Community Health Facilities. As a result, some rural clinics may cut back services or close. A Section of Chronic Disease will be

created between now and next July. All state human resource sections and publications will be centralized in the Department of Administrative Services. Family Violence Prevention and Occupational Injury have been transferred to CHEMS.

We have received a grant to implement a Violent Death Reporting System and to work with CDC and its new software to combine data from Vital Statistics.

Poison Control has been doing well. Over 7,000 calls were received from Alaskans each of the first two years. The current agreement with the Oregon Poison Center will end September 2004. It is estimated we will need \$160,000 per year to continue Poison Control. The federal budget has funded about \$60,000 per year.

It has been suggested that we circulate a news release when we complete a project to let the state know our accomplishments. Dave Hull said the ACEMS board should help with this process.

Healthy People 2010 shows that unintentional injury death rates have dropped during the last two decades.

EMS Program Report (Matt Anderson)

Much has been done in the last 6 months. We delivered 160 AEDs throughout the state with a \$237,000 grant last year. More money will be available this year to continue the program, buy more defibrillators and provide more training. A meeting will be held October 30th to review applications requesting a total of 619 AEDs. At the end we will have close to one million dollars worth of AEDs and training out there.

The Rural Hospital Flexibility Program continues to provide great support to us. It has contributed funds for EMS site visits and for Injury Prevention in a Bag. In the next few years EMS will continue to be a focus with that grant.

The Annual Report for EMS was great, but would be nice to have it done earlier in the year in time for the legislative session.

The CHEMS section website has added an online certification database list of current courses and email notification of upcoming courses. Thanks to Kathy McLeron and Zoann Murphy.

The State Department of Transportation has a federal earmark for a one million dollar Emergency Medical Access System. Thoughts are to fund Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system radios for EMS and possibly some highway call boxes. Any ideas on this would be helpful.

Zoann Murphy said Injury Prevention in a Bag is sending out duffle bags of safety devices, focusing on rural communities. Funds are available for her to travel to disperse the bags and train people. She will be at the annual EMS Symposium for training and have bags available.

The Code Blue project has been a great success, each region has been spending money carefully.

We need to update and revise current regulations to improve air medical services in Alaska and will do an initial in house draft of the revised regulations. Kathy McLeron is doing training for Bio-Terrorism and Hospital Preparedness. Kate Coleman has sent out triage kits and videos to EMS throughout the state.

An Alaska Mass Casualty Response plan is in draft form. We would love to get comments on this.

A new, federally-funded Metropolitan Medical Response System for SE Alaska will link communities together in case of a terrorist attack, tsunami, earthquake, cruise ship fire, etc. CBJ has funding and is putting together a plan to develop the system. Phase I would increase readiness, Phase II would develop standard operating guidelines, and Phase III would link system notification and communications.

ACEMS EMS Training Committee (Dave Potashnick)

The instructor guidelines have been developed. Dr. Ken Zafren added that the Trauma Guidelines should be done no later than Christmas. Kathy McLeron has edited the Cold Injury Guidelines, the committee has reviewed and agreed on them.

We need to make changes to the EMS Skill Sheets. Revised exams for EMT I, II and III have been distributed. There has been a change in exam security and how they are handled. The exams are sealed when instructors receive them, then resealed after the exam and signed off by the instructor. The exam results have been made easier for the student to understand. The question is referenced so that a student knows what area they need to focus on and revisit.

We are reviewing continuing medical education for certain training, such as Injury Prevention in a Bag, car seat technician and Learn-to-Return Courses for survival classes. We reviewed an online CPR training course, but decided this needs hands-on-training in order to be approved. An editor under contract is working on the instructor course manual, and the slides are finished.

We need to reach the public, general providers, and our legislators. Maybe we should provide simulated action shots for display to the general public to show who we are and what we do. Possibly once a month we could have a three-minute story on public radio.

Alaska EMS for Children Project (Doreen Risley)

We are completing a partnership grant which was extended to December. The remaining activities of this grant include: Pediatric Technical Assistance Team visits – Interior Region is planning a visit to Tanana in December. Southeast Region will not be able to do its visits and has elected to terminate the contract. We will be working with them to use the money for Pediatric internships at Providence Alaska Medical Center for Pediatric Medevac Preceptorships. Staff from Norton Sound Health Corporation will be traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center to participate in a pediatric medevac preceptorship program. Dr. Calle Gonzales has been working with Aeromed in Anchorage on this program with some success and we would like to expand it to the other services. The 5-day program is a mix of didactic and clinical training. A major focus of the program is pediatric intubation.

We are updating the medevac course manual to accompany the new curriculum slides. A contractor is editing the chapters, and after editing is completed, it will be put into final format in InDesign. The editing contract ends in December and we hope to have a completed manual by spring 2004.

The new EMSC Partnership Grant began March 1 and will go for three years with \$100,000 each year. The new grant has a different focus and is based on the priorities of the federal program. Activities include ways to integrate pediatrics into disaster planning and disaster response plans. We have a contract with a physician from North Carolina to develop a pediatric interfacility transport plan.

Completion is due in December. The new grant will continue to support pediatric medical emergency care training programs to include the state and regional symposia. There is also a contract with LifeGuard Alaska to provide PALS and ENPC (Emergency Nurse Pediatric Courses) across the state.

There was a supplemental grant to our partnership grant to provide a Pacific Region EMSC meeting. The meeting was held in June in Corvallis, Oregon. The main focus of the meeting was air transport issues and pediatrics and disaster planning. There were about 30 participants who represented the Pacific Region EMSC Partnership which includes: Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. Hawaii EMSC was not able to send a representative to this meeting but they continue to participate in the region and hope to be able to attend the next meeting. Alaska will be applying for the grant again this year on behalf of the region. The next meeting will be held in Seattle in January 2005. The focus of that meeting will be EMS Information Management Systems and Quality Improvement and parental involvement in EMSC.

There is money left in the grant that needs to be spent by the end of February. Our office received permission to spend the money on outreach pediatric training and rural site visits which will be coordinated by Dr. B.J. Coopes from Providence Alaska Medical Center.

State EMS Symposium Update (Doreen Risley)

Symposium is November 12 – 15 at the Egan Convention Center. The hosting hotel is the Anchorage Hilton Hotel. Pre-Symposium workshops include: Pediatric Disaster Life Support; Geriatric EMS (GEMS); and Incident Command System for EMS. There is also a one-day workshops on HIPAA and an Advanced Hazmat Life Support course. Jeff Dyar is our keynote speaker and will be presenting – “Is EMS Making a Difference?”

ACEMS Public Information/Education Committee (Skip Richards)

We need better symposium coverage, maybe through posters, TV, newspapers and bush mailers to show to the general public what EMS does. Shelley will be getting the Help Along The Way brochures out by April or May. It was suggested that the date be taken off of the brochure. Shelley said she would like to use a Code Blue ambulance for the cover photo next year and asked that photos be sent to her. PIE is considering CPR and AED instruction at the legislature for EMS Week. Since new AEDs have been distributed, this would be a good time to possibly do a formal presentation on them.

Regional EMS Directors/Coordinators (Sue Hecks)

Directors/Coordinators met on Monday. Sue was re-elected as Chair, Dave Potashnick is Vice-Chair, and Ronni Sullivan re-elected as Secretary. The greatest strength in EMS is the united spirit of providers, EMS and all regions working together for a common goal.

The Federal Rural Access grant: FDA recall language should be included in this year's RFP as well. As more AEDs become available, there should be a trainer available in each community.

CHEMS is moving ahead with the evaluation of the SMART Federal grant, including a multi-model level of transportation for the State of Alaska, including highways, air, land and sea.

Village Public Safety Officer programs are being cut, which will have a big effect on EMS responders in rural villages. Without VPSOs or police officers, some situations, like domestic violence, are not safe for EMS responders.

The Memorial Plaque is full and plans are to purchase two more for the future. If anyone has names to add, please send them to Ronni Sullivan before November 15th.

The Regional Directors and Coordinators meeting is scheduled in Juneau February 10th, 11th, and 12th. EMS Day at the Legislature will be one of these days.

REGIONAL EMS REPORTS

Interior Regions EMS (Dan Johnson)

The Interior has done mostly training activities this year. 650 people have been trained in Basic EMT, EMT II, III and ETT, while over 2300 were trained in BLS, CPR and first aid this year. 300 people were trained in ACLS, PALS and PEPP specialty classes in advanced skills. About 360 hours training were spent in preceptor training at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in Fairbanks. The biggest turnout yet of 130 people attended the Interior Region EMS Symposium. We have moved the meeting to a downtown Fairbanks location.

We continue to be the civilian coordinator for the MAST program at Ft. Wainwright for off road air rescue and medical transport. The Tok area has had stable responding units in the communities and has been functioning at a high level for the last five years.

Phase I of Code Blue is complete, and we are in the process of Phase II. We did not submit a Phase III request to the USDA.

Southeast Region EMS (Thor Christensen)

Code Blue has been a huge part of life during the last year and we are just wrapping it up. We are shifting our focus to Phase III which is about 1.2 million dollars.

We have gotten help with the data project entering the EMS run sheets. We completed an EMS technical assistance team with the Sitka Fire Department. Many of the recommendations are already being acted on.

The Community Training Center (CTC) has been quite active with first aid classes and is getting its new building built. Normally we just teach the instructors, but it's been good to meet the general public. Our Symposium was successful with over 200 people attending. We made money for the third year in a row. "Delayed Transport" is the theme for the 2004 EMS Symposium scheduled for April 16th and 17th. The ETT book is done and out. We will work with the CHEMS office for a news release, and possibly selling it on Amazon.com.

Southern Region EMS (Ronni Sullivan)

We are finally fully staffed and have just renewed the lease of the building for another five years. We have just had a huge computer upgrade including upgrades on our website. Code Blue has been successful and has provided a lot of equipment and training. We are ordering four more transport vehicles. Equipment donated by Alyeska Pipeline will be distributed to the sub-regional areas first. They recently donated seven Pro Packs.

We are gearing up for the Fall EMS Symposium and have contracted with CHEMS to do the HIPAA workshop. We have been updating the injury prevention program in Powerpoint. Next year's Symposium will be the first weekend of November, due to a conference at the Egan Center.

North Slope Borough EMS (Dave Potashnick)

We have provided CPR and CPR facts courses for all the villages, and ETT and continuing education courses for some of the villages. This quarter we are providing an ACLS course.

We got our first Code Blue award and purchased Zoll devices for each of the villages. We received additional HRSA money and bought a projector for Powerpoint and also purchased a computer. Due to budget cuts, we will be losing a half a million dollars from the Borough, so that will eliminate about five positions, we are not sure who will be affected yet.

Maniilaq Association EMS (Aggie Lie)

Since we took over medevacs, the response time has improved from two hours to 41 minutes. Training has increased from last year. Through Code Blue we have received 4 wheelers and snow machine and we everyone is very happy. We are working on Phase III. There has been progress with the Red Cross regarding teaching.

North Sound EMS (Mike Owens)

A major concern is the loss of helicopters to Kosovo, which has made an impact in our world. Five helicopters went out this morning and will be overseas for one year. Air ambulance transports so far this year are down from 300 to 215. The Code Blue project purchased one ambulance each for Nome, St. Michaels, and Unalakleet. They were warmly received in every community. We would like a special award or plaque for Renee Johnson, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Office of Rural Development, in gratitude for providing lifesaving equipment. We need additional employees, we each have nine weeks a year that we are not on call 24/7. That includes vacation, CME and meeting time. We have approval for an additional position. We have received a lot of requests for training for the health aide program.

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation EMS (Tom Fazzini)

Employees that have just joined us are Jeff Hollabaugh and Tony Olick. They are both BLS instructors. During 36 classes held, we have trained 322 people from ETT to BLS in the last five months. Code Blue – Completed the delivery of 17 ATV's and rescue sleds, and three ambulances. Five villages have VHF communications systems that are being tested. We have installed or made contact with 18 new Kids Don't Float stations in 13 or 14 villages. We are trying to pass an ordinance in Bethel requiring that kids 18 and under wear bicycle helmets. We will be participating during the next year with Harborview Medical Center doing a safe gun study of how people store their guns.

Recess (Barb Simonsen)

Barb recessed the group until 9:00 am on 10/16/03.

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MINUTES

October 16, 2003

Call to Order (Barb Simonsen)

Chair Barb Simonsen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Addition to Agenda (Barb Simonsen)

Motion: To add a report by Barb from the Alaska Primary Care Council to the agenda.
(Dan Cox, Steve O'Connor)

Alaska Primary Care Council Report (Barb Simonsen)

Barb received a letter from Commissioner Gilbertson April 2003 asking her to participate in the Primary Care Council and she attended the December 17th meeting by teleconference. The Council incorporated the ACEMS bylaws into its own bylaws and worked on the action items from the retreat in September 2002. The invitees are the Dental Society, Public Health Primary Care Office, Native Health Board, The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Primary Care Association, the State Hospital and the Nursing Home Association, the Alaska State Medical Association, the Denali Commission, EMS, the Mental Health Trust Authority, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Center for Rural Health. A lot of discussion was about Blue Cross Primera. They have decided to move from a "not for profit organization" to a "for profit organization." The reason they are doing this is then they can offer stocks on the open stock market to increase their income so they can get more money for communications and system development. In order to do that they have to sell their present insurances. At least 80% of Alaskans are under Blue Cross insurance, this raises many concerns on the impact this may have. A group has gotten together and worked on the development of bylaws and a mission statement for charitable non-profit organization to be the recipient of Alaska's portion of the money. Some of this may be resolved by January 2004. Additional discussions were about workforce issues and the needs throughout the state, such as what we need for Primary Care as far as villages, Community Health Aides and EMS are concerned.

Another meeting was held on August 28th in Anchorage. A facilitator was brought in and discussion again was about Blue Cross. Primera wants to develop a Primera Foundation, to collect Alaska and Washington's money and dole it out over the next six to ten years. The Primary Care Council requested ACEMS to write a letter of support to the Director of the Division of Insurance, if we agree it should be brought to our state and into its own foundation. For workforce development, they really want us to be able to provide the Primary Care Council with our EMS needs, what do we have for EMS providers, what is our immediate need, and what are our future needs. The question that keeps coming back to the Council is what is the definition of "Primary Care." They would like each organization to define "Primary Care." The next meeting is June 6.

ACEMS Trauma System Review Committee (Mark Johnson, Barb Simonsen, Martha Moore)

Alaska Native Medical Center has been recertified as a Level II Trauma Center. Only two hospitals in Alaska are Level IV Trauma Centers, Yukon Kuskokwim in Bethel and Norton Sound in Nome.

The trauma registry data reporting system relies on clinics or ambulances in small towns to forward the initial report to the end hospital. Now that we have the database current we will start working on improving accuracy and completeness. Until recently, we only had three neurosurgeons in the State of Alaska. There is a new

(fourth) neurosurgeon at Alaska Native Medical Center who is working on getting privileges at Providence and getting a partner.

At the April ACEMS meeting we talked about the bill that was passed in West Virginia that provided a limit on liability for hospitals that are designated trauma centers. Barb sent a letter to Governor Murkowski asking him to consider similar legislation in Alaska. On June 7th Amy from Governor Murkowski's office called in response to our letter and requested that we attend a meeting with Special Assistant Dennis Dewitt about our proposal. Matt, Shelley and Barb met with Bob Labbe and Dennis Dewitt. We wanted to show that interest in the incentive program was to advance the trauma system development in the state, by getting more trauma centers designated.

Director Doug Bruce

Mr. Bruce discussed the fiscal issues along with the recent large reorganizations of the Department of Health and Social Services and other state agencies. The Department of Administration will be centralizing Human Resource Offices. Changes started in FY 04 and there will be large changes in FY 05. Doug shared with everyone the possible changes within the Public Health Division. In FY 05 a new Section of Health Systems Support will be developed and will include EMS/Injury Prevention, Primary Care/Rural Health/Certificate of Need, and State Licensing and Certification. Social services licensing functions will be taken over in FY 06. Another major change that has not been implemented but is going to impact the Division of Public Health, its sections and other divisions within the Department, is centralization of Information Technology functions. Injury Prevention and Disease Control will get priority focus by Mr. Bruce in the future.

Airport Lighting and Improvements (Carl Siebe, DOT)

Carl gave a very informative Powerpoint presentation about the new lights to be distributed by the Alaska Department of Transportation for communities without permanent runway lights. Within the next three months a list of 42 landing zones will be provided the light boxes. Shelley will keep a list of where these lights are located and who is in charge of them.

EMS Medical Director Report (Ken Zafren, MD)

Ken has been involved in the draft trauma center legislation and working on guidelines. The Wilderness Medical Society is putting together an International Conference for Cold Weather Medicine in Alaska at Alyeska March 6-11, 2004. A full brochure can be seen at <http://www.WMS.org>. The guidelines should be complete by the end of the year. All providers need to know about the CHEMS website and where to find the guidelines. There has been a lot of concern regarding insurance for Medical Directors, and he would like to revisit the issue.

Speakers from Federal Department of Defense (Joe Quickel and Tim Woodall)

There was a discussion of EMS communications regarding the Alaska Land Mobile Radio Project (ALMR). This technology is currently in progress and will increase greatly the communications and interoperability among federal, state and local emergency response agencies. Many opportunities are available to pursue in this area.

Member Status (Barb Simonsen)

Debbie McCarty's appointment is expiring and she is not interested in re-applying. Recommendations have been made for the reappointment of Dave Hull and the new Pediatric Liaison appointment of B.J. Coopes. Barb will write another letter to check on the status of the appointments of Dave Hull and B.J. Coopes. Matt said he

would like to add to the letter to Lorraine Derr thanks for her continued support of EMS in her role as a member of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Steering Committee.

STIPDA Stat Review of CHEMS Injury Surveillance & Prevention Program (Mark Johnson)

During the week of July 21-25, 2003 The State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA) sponsored a national team of experts to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the CHEMS Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program. The report developed by this team includes a large number of recommendations for strengthening the program in the future. It is based on national consensus standards for five major components of a state health department injury prevention program, developed by STIPDA. Major funding for this State Technical Assessment Team (STAT) review was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A copy of the report is posted on the CHEMS web site. He will send a report for ACEMS members on goals and what has already been done.

ACEMS Activities at EMS Symposium (Matt Anderson)

Don Hudson, Barb Simonsen, Karen O'Neill, and Charlie Lean will be at the Symposium Opening Session. The same people will be attending the awards banquet on November 15th. Please contact Shelley Owens by November 1st if you will attend or not.

Legislation supported by ACEMS: (Barb Simonsen)

SB 160, Limiting Civil Liability for AED Use passed. She will write a thank you to Senator Olsen.

HB 213, Graduated Licensing for Teen Drivers, is still alive.

HB 93, which would repeal the sunset on the Boating Safety Act, is also a live bill. We need to write a letter of support for both of these bills.

HB 25, Advanced Directives is still a live bill. Shelley is working with the sponsor's office. Our main focus is to protect the Comfort One and DNR system, and the organ donation program.

Zoann is doing research on a Illinois Law in comparison to HB 44 which relates to the use of headlights when operating a motor vehicle.

HB 10 and SB 19 both have to do with health insurance for non-profits and small businesses. They are still live bills. ACEMS supported them in our April meeting. Will work with Shelley on this.

State EMS Program Planning for Next Six Months (Matt Anderson)

The focus will be on the maintenance of programs including: Rural AED Act, EMS Symposium, SMART Triage System, and Code Blue.

We need to have the Cold Injuries guidelines completed and advertisements done and in the CHEMS office by mid-January. Guidelines will take 2 weeks to print, 1 week to update, and the publication should be done by the February 10th meeting.

ACEMS priorities include updating regulations. Staff will do drafts and may contract with an attorney or the Department of Law to review. Matt and Mark will help Barb with a letter to the Commissioner on this issue.

Recommendations and Action Items

Mark suggests putting the Poison Center on the agenda for the spring to come up with suggestions for future funding. By then we will know how much Congress has appropriated for the program.

A question was raised about Pediatric AEDs and the importance for consideration in the grant. We need to get the experts in and find out more. Matt will collect his information, get a clinical group together, and include the regional directors and research from there.

The Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Minnesota program sounds very appropriate for rural physicians. Matt and Ken plan to identify a couple of Rural Doctors in Alaska to attend. Matt will look at funding and schedules.

Matt will also pursue the possibilities of a CPR class, and AED donation at EMS Week at the Legislature.

ACEMS is in support of Matt continuing to research and check into federal and non –federal funds for SMART Triage.

There is concern about VPSOs being cut and discussion was made of contacting EMS personnel in affected areas to advise them that their certification or training would not compel them to enter into dangerous situations. This will be a topic to bring up at the Medical Directors' meeting. A letter should be sent to Commissioner Gilbertson regarding this.

As a followup on the Primera Blue Cross issue, Barb talked to Denali Daniels at the Denali Commission. The Insurance Commissioner of Washington has been given a new scheduling order and she has until March 23, 2004 to approve the proposed conversion. It will go to trial in January. The Alaska Insurance Division is awaiting information.

EMS workforce - Matt and Barb will get together on this information.

Barb will write a letter to Lorraine Derr thanking her for her continuous support of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

MOTION: to send letters to express our concern regarding the re-organization in Public Health. ACEMS recommends that EMS retain status as its own section. A letter should be written to Governor Murkowski, Commissioner Gilbertson, and Director Doug Bruce.
(Dave Hull, Dorothy Jones)

Select dates for next meeting (Barb Simonsen)

April 22 and 23, 2004, were selected as dates for the next ACEMS meeting, with the Regional Directors and Coordinators meeting on April 20 and Committees and Task Forces meeting on April 21.

Adjournment

Barb adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.